

DISCOVERY

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 27, No. 17 - Friday, Oct. 24, 2003 -- Brooks City-Base, Texas

BROOKS
CITY-BASE
A Technology and Business Center

AFRL hero gets Commendation Medal for saving life

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

An Air Force Research Laboratory scientist whose quick actions helped save the life of a San Antonio accident victim was honored with a special Air Force Commendation Medal during an Oct. 14 ceremony.

Capt. Melvin Harris was presented the medal for an "Act of Courage" during a commander's call presided by Col. Thomas Cropper, Detachment 5, Human Effectiveness Directorate commander. Harris, deputy program manager for AFRL's High Energy Laser Program, also received a commendation letter from the San Antonio Fire Department.

"I wasn't seeking anything," admits Harris, referring to his recognition.

"After the accident, I was upset at the impatience that had caused such a horrific thing to happen. I wrote up the incident, which was therapeutic

for me, then sent the e-mail out to my squadron as a warning (to not be impatient)," he explained.

A month later he was officially recognized by the San Antonio Fire Department, and subsequently was notified that the Air Force wanted to reward him as well.

The most traumatic event to date in Harris's life occurred the morning of Jan. 9, 2003, while he was driving to work on Interstate 35 South.

"Usually I come to work between 7-7:30 a.m., but everything made me late that day," he said.

However, he was not too late to see a motorist weaving through traffic along IH-35's northbound lane. That motorist had clipped the back bumper of a car driven by a San Antonio woman who quickly lost control of her white sedan. The victim's car hit the guard rail and flipped upside down, trapping the woman along with her husband and two young daughters.



Capt. Melvin Harris

The impact caused the guard rail to impale the woman through her abdomen.

See Commendation, Page 4

Tips ensure a safe Halloween

By Tech. Sgt. Francis Sims

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

Halloween is a time of fun and excitement for trick-or-treaters of all ages. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, however, there are Halloween hazards that come in various disguises. Injuries may involve:

- Eye abrasions from sharp objects attached to masks or costumes
- Skin irritations or rashes from decorative face paints or creams
- Burns from flammable costumes ignited by open flames from items such as candles and jack-o'-lanterns.

When purchasing costumes, masks, beards and wigs, look for the label "flame resistant." Although this label does not mean these items won't

See Safety, Page 6

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Domestic violence includes violence against women, children and men by a partner, spouse or parent. In addition to violence, abusers may employ other tactics like verbal and emotional abuse, threats, intimidation and isolation from friends and family.

"Domestic violence is not just a domestic issue; it is a community issue," said Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander. "It is far too common and impacts families far too deeply to be 'none of our business.' In order to increase the awareness of agencies and organizations which can help prevent this form of abuse, or assist those who are already victims, I was very pleased to sign the proclamation declaring October to be Domestic Violence Prevention Month here at Brooks City-Base."

Domestic violence is a growing problem in the U.S. According to a 1998 survey, one-third of American women reported physical or sexual abuse by a husband or boyfriend. The Texas Council on Family Violence reported 74 percent of Texans knew someone who had been abused and 26 percent have experienced abuse. In 2000, the National Crime Victimization

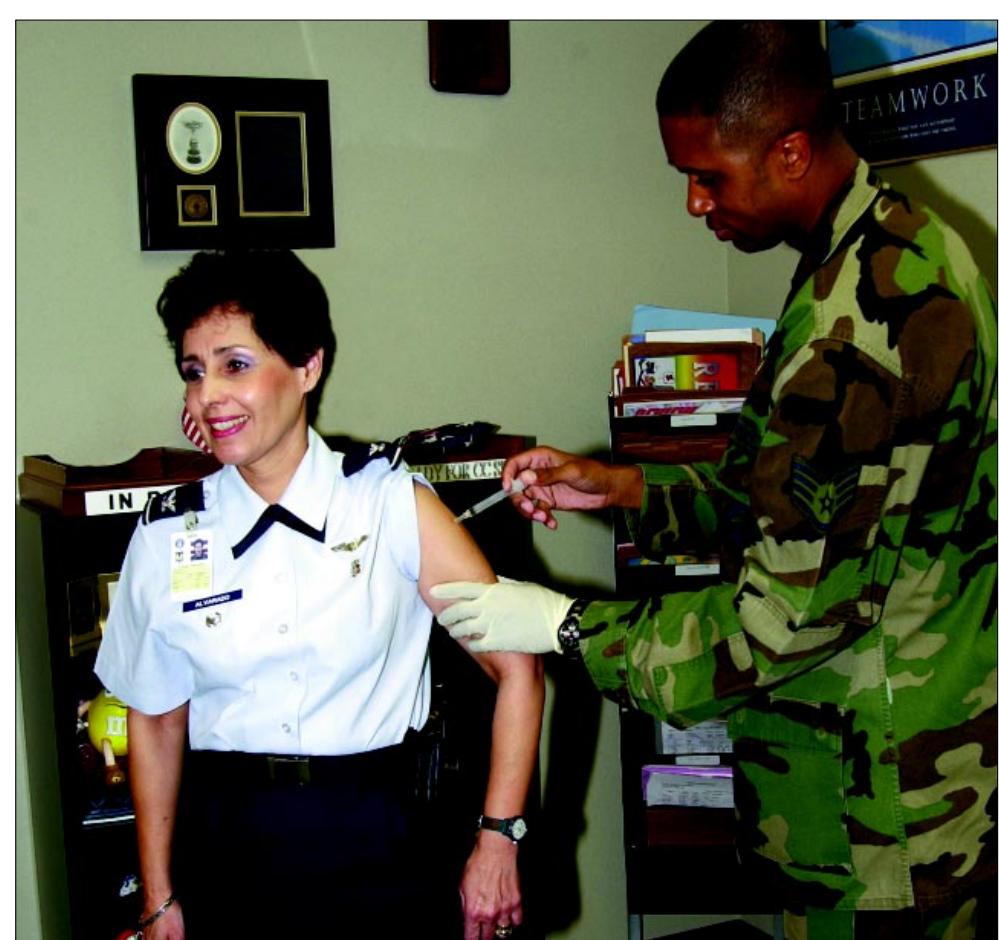
Survey documented 700,000 cases of domestic violence. Officials who work with domestic abuse estimate that far more cases of violence go unreported.

According to a proclamation released by Pres. Bush in 2001: "Our homes should be places of safety and comfort. Tragically, domestic violence can and does turn many homes into places of torment. ... And many children suffer or witness abuse in their homes, which can sadly spawn legacies of violence in families across America."

According to the National Center for Violent Crime, 20 percent of violent crime against women were committed by a familiar person and more than one-third of partner violence occurs in front of a third person.

Government and local agencies are taking strides to reduce domestic violence by providing education about preventing domestic violence. Police departments and district attorneys' offices throughout the country have specialized domestic violence units that provide support and services to victims.

Anyone who is or knows a victim of domestic violence should request help. For military families, Family Advocacy provides resources and support. The Brooks office can be reached at 536-5301.

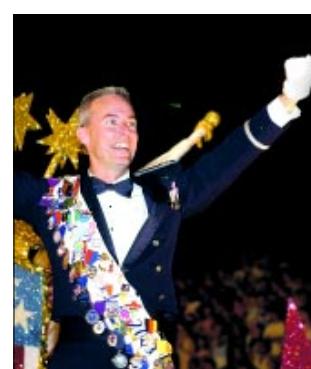


It won't hurt, ma'am

Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, receives her flu shot from Staff Sgt. Maurice Wilson of the Brooks Clinic. Military members are required to receive annual flu shots. Wilson has contacted first sergeants on base to set up immunization schedules for each organization. Base civilians will have the opportunity to receive their flu shots at a later date.

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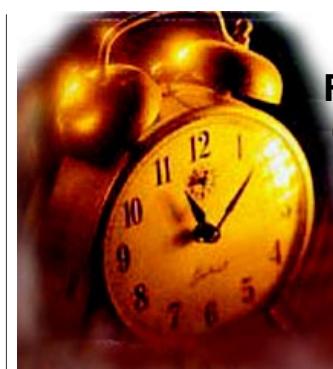
Barkley looks back at Fiesta 2003

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Brooks bowler traveled the 'fast lanes'

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Fall back October 26



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This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the *Discovery* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the United States Air Force.

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Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks City-Base. Material for the *Discovery* should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5115 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: Cerise.Shapiro@brooks.af.mil or to: Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

The *Discovery* is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

Discovery advertising

Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the *Discovery*, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to **Prime Time Military Newspapers, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.**

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Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.

Smoking: I wish I'd never started



By Airman 1st Class Micah Garbarino

Ogden Air Logistics Center Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFMCNS) — Many years ago, Mark Twain said, "To cease smoking is the easiest thing I ever did. I ought to know, I've done it a thousand times."

And just like America's sardonic son, I've drifted in and out of clouds of tobacco smoke many times. The first time I quit for about five hours, the second attempt lasted eight days, the third attempt lasted an unbearable 45 days and the last go-round went on for two months before a family emergency snapped my resolve like a stale cigarette.

All of these endeavors were foiled by hours of rationalization on my part and a not-so-subliminal willingness to continue smoking. I quit again three weeks ago, hopefully for good.

Smoking has been a part of my life for seven years. This time, I decided I probably should get some help, so I signed up for a smoking cessation class at the health and wellness center.

There, they provide quitters with a prescription for stop-smoking aids, information and a semi-support group. I felt pathetic. I hated that I was so dependent on a drug that I needed to get help, and I looked forward to the class about as much as chopping off my right pinky finger.

During the first session, the class facilitator, went around the room and asked everyone how long they had been smoking and how much they smoked every day.

"Pack a day for 15 years," said one.

"Two packs a day for 35 years," said another.

"I smoke a pack a day and dip snuff in between smokes," said the guy next to me.

It went on, and the longer it did, the more I realized that I didn't want to be in their shoes. I can't imagine trying to quit smoking after being that connected to nicotine for so long. I was getting off easy.

I knew I needed to quit, but I really didn't want to. When I was a kid and went grocery shopping with my mom she would always say, "Honey, there is a difference between need and want. We need eggs, milk and cheese. We don't need triple-frosted, grape corn puffs."

I've never seen a place where need and want clashed so violently as in a smoker. I need clean, healthy lungs, a carcinogen-free body and the ability to breathe freely, but I want a cigarette. I want an excuse to get up from my desk and go outside. I can always look forward to my next cigarette. I want the slight head rush. I want to be calmed.

We smokers know the habit is bad for us. We're constantly reminded. Radio and television ads, billboards, pamphlets in the doctor's office and of course the ever-annoying co-worker.

Here's a tip for the co-workers — if you know someone who smokes, don't tell them it's a filthy habit, that it's killing them or that they will be better off without it. You're talking about their best friend, something that has seen them

through thick and thin when no one else was there. You'll probably make them want to smoke another cigarette just so they can stub it out in your eye.

The bottom line is, just like an alcoholic, acknowledging the need to quit comes from within. We don't need some teenage prankster for the Truth campaign pointing it out.

We don't need to hear it from anyone. There is a U.S. Surgeon General's warning on the cigarettes that we pay good money for — close to \$8,000 for me during seven years.

Smokers hear it from everyone. We need to hear from our bodies, from our legs and lungs screaming for oxygen after a flight of stairs. When we get sick of that, we try to quit, but no one likes a quitter, especially nicotine.

In the class, they said nicotine is one of the most addictive substances known. Supposedly, it's more addictive than cocaine, but I've never felt the need to mug someone for cigarette money. I've never had withdrawals or shakes, but I've never been able to quit either, so they're probably on to something.

Smoking is also a habit, like biting your nails or brushing your teeth. It becomes something you do without even thinking about it. A habit that, as Mark Twain and I both know, makes a worthy opponent.

Unfortunately, for the good author, he didn't have the wonders of modern science to help him in his quest to leave the leaves down river. Fortunately, for me, I do.

I used both Zyban and the nicotine replacement patch. My doctor figured I might as well try both since my last attempt was less than a success with the Zyban alone.

The combination seems to be working. I quit three weeks ago and I'm over the worst of it.

I'm still taking Zyban, but I haven't used a nicotine patch in a week. The rest is up to me, and my commitment to quitting.

I'll think of my grandfather. I watched him die of smoking-related cancer, and a close friend who was only in his mid-40s as well.

I won't tell smokers I think they should quit. I hate it when people preach at me, but maybe someone will hear me when I say the smokers' cliché, "I wish I had never started."

I always thought smoking made the good times better, helped me when I was stressed and allowed me to occupy myself when I was bored. Guess what, it did. But I would take back every single cigarette I smoked just to be able to say I never started.

Maybe if I quit now I won't be in an American Cancer Society television commercial, croaking through an electronic voice box slung around my neck, smoking through a hole in my throat, encouraging others to stop.

Brooks personnel who are interested in quitting can contact the Health and Wellness Center for information about the smoking cessation classes available on base. Call 536-4292 for class schedules or to schedule a one-on-one appointment to help you quit today.

The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout is November 20



Officials halt certain military blood donations

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A parasitic disease being spread by sand flies in Iraq has prompted officials who oversee the military's blood supply to implement a one-year donor deferral for military people serving in that country.

The reason for the deferral is a form of the disease Leishmaniasis, which causes sores or lesions on the skin and in its most serious form can cause death.

Since 2002, military health officials have reported 22 cases of the disease, with the majority being reported this year.

"It's a cautious deferral; we're erring on the side of safety," said Lt. Col. Ruth Sylvester, director of the armed services blood program office.

"People who actually get the disease are permanently deferred," she explained. "The issue with those who are exposed is that there is an incubation period before any symptoms appear — the deferral will prevent them from unknowingly donating (infected) blood."

According to blood program officials, the parasite that causes the disease has been proven to survive in blood products stored under standard conditions for up to 25 days. At least six transfusion-transmitted cases of the disease have been reported.

Sylvester, who said she is not a physician but understands the disease, said there are two types of Leishmaniasis. The most common, but less serious, form is cutaneous Leishmaniasis, which causes lesions on the skin that may look like a volcano with a raised edge and center "crater" and

may be covered with a scab, she said.

"All of the military cases so far have been cutaneous," she added.

However, she said the more serious form of the disease, visceral Leishmaniasis, can affect the internal organs of the body, such as the spleen and liver, and can lead to death.

Sylvester said military people who have been infected with the disease are being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where doctors have set up a special-treatment program just for the disease. People infected with the disease undergo a three-week drug regimen that "will eliminate the disease and take care of the infection," she said.

"I don't believe there is cause for alarm," Sylvester said. "We had 22 cases in the last two years with all the people we've had deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq and throughout the entire Central Command area. So it's a very small number, given the total number of people deployed."

But she did express concern about the disease's impact on the number of eligible military donors. The latest deferral is just one of many the military's blood program is now facing, she said.

In recent years, blood-program officials had to defer donors because of malaria risks worldwide. They also had to defer people who might (have) been exposed to a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, better known as "mad cow" disease, or who lived in certain parts of Europe for specified time periods between 1980 and 1996.

"When we lose these donors, we have to bring in more donors," Sylvester said. "We have to find donors who have not traveled, not been de-

ployed, and haven't lived in Europe. It's imperative that we find donors who have not deployed, and we're focusing our efforts on bringing those donors in."

Sylvester said the military has plenty of eligible donors to draw from, and she encouraged military and Department of Defense employees, as well as family members, to donate blood on a regular basis by scheduling appointments with local DoD donor centers. Where the DoD does not have donor centers, she encourages donations to local civilian agencies.

"In the DoD blood program, we only touch a very small percentage of the population that we draw from — about 20 percent of the eligible donors," she said. "So there are plenty of donors out there. The (challenges are) to get them in the door and to get them to donate."

Contact the blood donor center at Lackland Air Force Base by calling 292-8100 or 292-8105, or the center at Wilford Hall Medical Center at 292-7280 for donor information. Blood drives are held on a regular basis throughout local military installations and at the Brooks Chapel.

Prospective donors must complete a health history and screening. If requirements are met, a unit of blood is drawn. The whole process takes about 30 minutes.

Anyone 17 years or older, who weighs at least 110 pounds and is in good general health can donate but eligible donors can only donate every eight weeks. Certain health conditions or medications may prevent donation.

The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center also has a lasting need for donors. Contact them by calling donor services at 731-5555 for additional information.

Local Red Cross needs volunteers for military emergency support services

SAN ANTONIO — Though it's been more than six months since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the San Antonio Chapter of the Red Cross continues to meet increased needs for support to military families in times of emergency. The Red Cross transmits emergency communications to deployed service members when there is a birth, death or sudden illness in their immediate family.

Despite the end of combat in May and the subsequent return of several local military units, requests for local emergency communications continue to run at least 300 percent higher than during peacetime.

Throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom and its aftermath, volunteers have been of tremendous importance in this service to military families.

More volunteers are desperately needed to sustain the high level of support. Anyone with daytime or evening availability Monday through Sunday is encouraged to contact the American Red Cross at 210-224-5151 for additional information.

Training and supervision are provided to all new volunteers.

There are various locations throughout San Antonio and the local military bases that need volunteer support.

Call today and do your part to support the proud South Texas military community.



'Lab' teaches warfighters to combat sleep deprivation

By 2nd Lt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt

Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs

The Air Force Research Laboratory is offering the first comprehensive training program on how to manage fatigue in military aviation operations Nov. 13 and 14 at Brooks.

The course is open to pilots, aircrews, flight surgeons, maintenance personnel, schedulers and safety officers.

Dr. John Caldwell, Dr. J. Lynn Caldwell, and Dr. James Miller, or AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate, put the Warfighter Fatigue Countermeasures Program together in response to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's call for a 50 percent reduction in the number of mishaps and accidents during the next two years.

"Fatigue is particularly problematic for flight crews. With the manpower reductions, increased contingency operations, and the growing reliance on sustained operations having stressed the basic biological capabilities of our people, research and training is clearly needed to address the current mismatch between the mission demands and the human performance capacity," said (John) Caldwell.

According to (John) Caldwell, this two-day workshop will outline the dangers of fatigue in military aviation and related operations, the mechanisms underlying fatigue, common causes of overly-tired personnel, and techniques for optimizing alertness in military environments.

Although the Air Force's number one cause of accidents is off-duty mo-

“ It is clear that overly tired personnel will increasingly be at risk for fatigue-related accidents unless a concerted fatigue management program is aggressively pursued. ”

Dr. John Caldwell
Air Force Research Laboratory

tor vehicle crashes, aircraft mishaps also are of concern. In both cases, fatigue is a contributor to life threatening, disastrous mistakes that cost millions of dollars each year.

Fatigue has been shown to be a major factor in many of the Air Force's reportable Class A mishaps and it is a concern throughout the DoD.

"The National Sleep Foundation estimates that 1,500 people (mostly young males) die on the Nation's highways each year as a result of drowsy driving. It is clear that overly tired personnel will increasingly be at risk for fatigue-related accidents unless a concerted fatigue management program is aggressively pursued," said (John) Caldwell.

During the course participants will receive instruction on the major causes of fatigue, valid fatigue countermeasures, the design of crew work/rest schedules, and the use of a new computerized scheduling tool. A short overview of research topics will be included, as well.

No prior education in fatigue management, sleep, or circadian rhythms is required, and the total cost to participants is \$120.00 (to cover take-home course-related materials).

Interested DoD personnel should register by Oct. 31 by contacting Charlie.Dean@brooks.af.mil.

Commendation

Continued from Page 1

men, severing a leg at the hip.

"I stopped my car and jumped over the railing and saw that she had lost a leg. (Some of) her organs were exposed. Her husband was unconscious and two girls, ages four and seven, were screaming," he recalls.

By then, a group of people had gathered near the crash site. However, they appeared to be shocked by the carnage that was not obscured by smoke billowing from the wreck.

"It was really gruesome, but I had to get them out," Harris said, noting that the woman was semi-conscious.

Harris first rescued the husband, who was in the front passenger seat, prompting bystanders to help him. Within seconds he was helped by a doctor who worked at Brooke Army Medical Center, fortuitously close to where the crash had occurred.

Harris, trained in first aide, took turns with the doctor applying pressure above the woman's severed leg to stop her from bleeding to death.

Prior to helping stabilize the woman, Harris had also rescued the two girls trapped in the back seat. He had borrowed a knife to cut loose the younger girl whose seatbelt had twisted into a knot around her.

When paramedics arrived at the scene ten minutes later, they were confronted with the seemingly impossible challenge of freeing a woman who had been impaled by a guard rail.

"Besides the guard rail impaling her, the car had crumpled around her like a clam shell. Firefighters tried to cut her out. There was tension on the guard rail, so they hugged it as they were cutting it to absorb (some of) the shock (to the victim). It was a nightmare," Harris recalls.

Unfortunately, cutting the guard rail off from its mooring did nothing to free the woman who was still impaled by it.

Eventually, the "Jaws of Life" was used to cut through the frontside passenger door to free her.

The victim was taken to BAMC where she recovered. Harris visited her two days later.

"It was very emotional for me. I held her hand to make sure she was okay. She cried," remembers Harris.

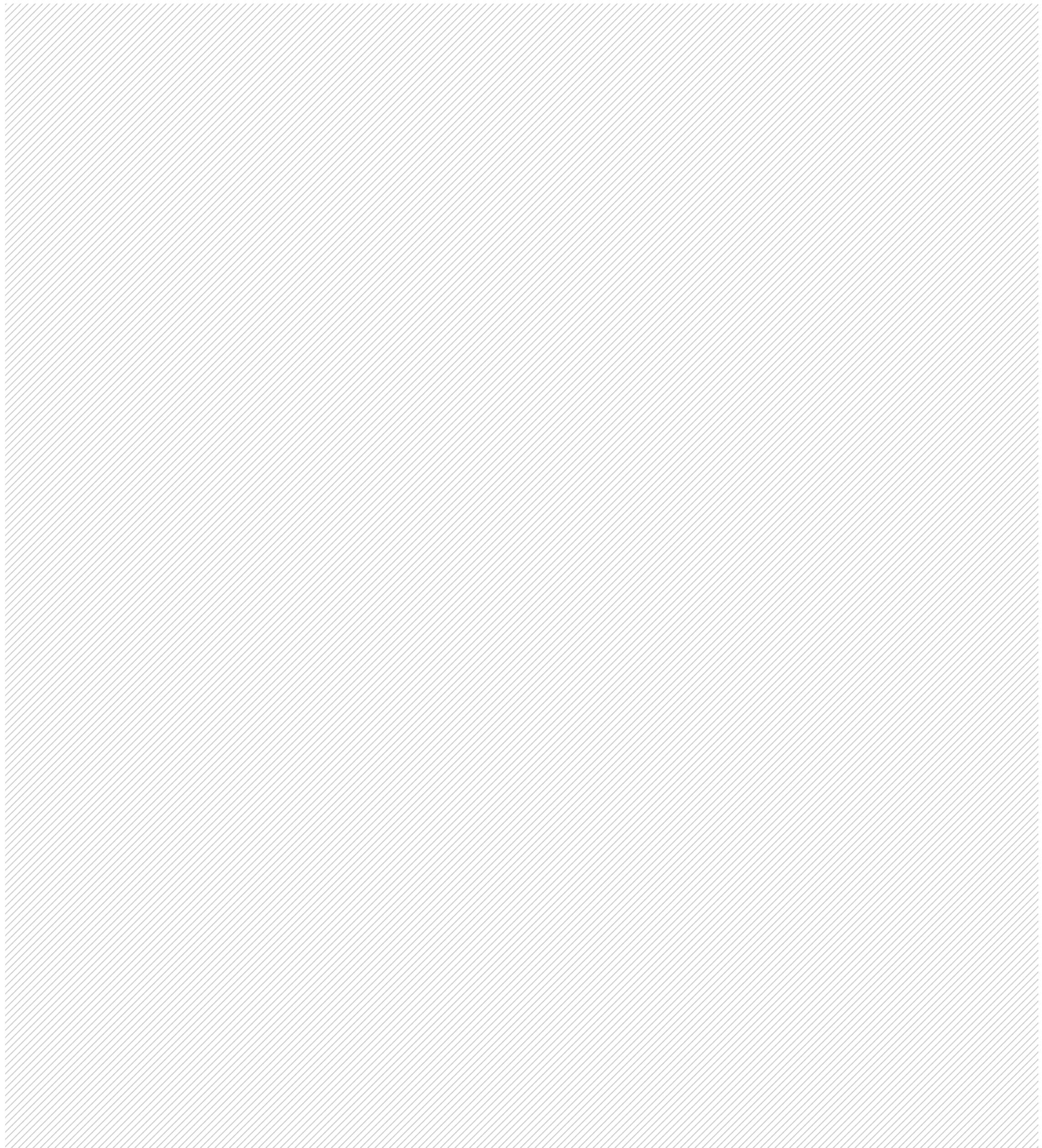
Thanks to his quick actions, the woman and the other passengers survived.

In a letter of commendation from Dr. Donald J. Gordon, San Antonio Fire Department medical director who is department chair at the University of Texas Health Science Center's School of Allied Health Sciences, Harris is praised for his actions.

Gordon wrote, in part, "You stopped to render assistance to a very severe motor vehicle crash at IH-35 and Walters Street, involving a person who had sustained a traumatic amputation. You also rendered assistance to the EMS and SAFD fire personnel who were also laboring to extricate and prepare the patient for transport to the trauma center. Your presence on the scene was instrumental in their successfully transporting the patient for further care. I deeply appreciate and commend you for your good Samaritan actions in this case."

"People have frequently told me that they don't know if they would have stopped to help. My parents raised me to do the right thing," said Harris, a 1998 Air Force Academy graduate who has a degree in applied physics.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil





Events

CFC silent auction

On behalf of the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign coming to an end, Brooks staff are invited to participate in a silent auction, sponsored by 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis, who will donate his reserved parking spaces at Bldg. 150 and Bldg. 204 for a full week to the highest bidder.

For more information send requests to: cfc@brooks.af.mil.

Let's ALL bid the 2003 CFC farewell.

CFC spirit

As the CFC draws to a close and in the "Spirit of Fitness," with the new Air Force fitness standards in mind, as well as for the joy of giving, the Air Force Institute of Occupational Health CFC coordinators invite base personnel — athletes, gladiators, sportswomen, civilian and military — to participate in the final Athlon event. The Athlon is scheduled for 8 a.m., Oct. 31, and consists of a bicycle run around the base perimeter, a 1.5 mile marathon run at the Brooks track and push-up/sit-up routines either indoors or outdoors.

Participants with supporting sponsors are encouraged to enter and participate.

Those who cannot participate but want to volunteer to help in the event, please don't hesitate to contact us as well. For more information, send requests to: cfc@brooks.af.mil.

AFA combat breakfast

Military members and civilian employees are invited to the 3rd Annual Air Force Association Combat Breakfast, scheduled for 7:30 a.m., Nov. 6 at Mitchell Hall at Lackland Air Force Base. Retired Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner is slated to speak.

Breakfast includes tacos, home fried potatoes, bacon, biscuits, juice, coffee, tea. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased by Nov. 4. Uniform for the event is BDU's for military members and business casual for civilians.

Contact Staff Sgt. Kathryn King at 536-3132 or Tech. Sgt. Hazel Wong at 536-2021 for information and tickets.

Youth concert event needs volunteers

The Air Force Band of the West and Band of the Air Force Reserve have teamed up with the Greater San Antonio Hospital Council and San Antonio Police Department to present a "Stay off drugs, stay in school" concert series for San Antonio-area school children Oct. 30-31.

The free concerts take place each day at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium at Trinity University as a culmination of Red Ribbon Week, an annual event held nationally to promote drug-free communities.

Reserve Generation, the featured entertainment and a popular musical combo from the Band of the Air Force Reserve, has set the standard for this type of event in the Air Force, according to organizers. The show is fun, includes some great music and provides a strong anti-drug message.

School children of all ages, including youth who are home-schooled, and their families are invited to attend any of the concerts.

To ensure a smooth flow of children from buses to their seats in the auditorium, organizers are seeking volunteer groups and individuals who can serve as ushers and traffic monitors.

People or groups who would like to volunteer their help at any of the concerts should call Susana Lydic at the hospital council at 820-3500.

Trick-or-treating hours at Brooks

Halloween trick-or-treating at Brooks is from 6 to 8 p.m., Oct. 31. Family housing residents are reminded to turn on their outdoor lights if they wish to have little ghosts and goblins visit their homes.

The Youth Center's Halloween costume contest runs from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in several categories. Call the Youth Center at 536-2515 for more information.

Safety

Continued from Page 1

catch fire, it does indicate the items will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

To minimize the risk of contact with candles and other fire sources, avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts. Also, children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes. (Mom's high heels are not a good idea for safe walking.)

Purchase or make costumes that are light, bright and clearly visible to motorists. Decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. To carry the treats bags or sacks should be light colored or decorated with reflective tape.

Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials. Do not allow your children to carry sharp objects or real

items.

Here are additional safety tips:

— For a young child, pin a slip with the child's name, address and phone number in a pocket in case the child get separated from the group

— Teach children to only stop at houses or apartments that are well lit and to never enter a stranger's home

— Tell your children not to walking across front lawns or take short cuts through areas like back yards, alleys or woods.

— An adult or an older responsible youth should supervise the outing for children younger than 12 or have them go in groups (if old enough)

— Children should carry flashlights to see easily and aid in being seen

— Someone should carry a cell phone in case there are any problems

— Remind children to never accept rides from strangers

What's Haunting San Antonio?

Urban legends rise from the dead

San Antonio urban legends are no secret among the locals.

This year, Brooks personnel join the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the Alamo City Sports Complex to unlock the doors of the past and bring the legends to life.

Haunted hayrides at the Ghost Tracks, the location of a legend which unfolded about 40 years ago in South San Antonio, began Oct. 23 and are scheduled for Oct. 30-Nov. 1 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Come relive the stories of the children of the Ghost Tracks, the Chupacabra, the Donkey Lady, Fang Baby and more.

Haunted Hayride dares to take you back in time to witness for yourselves the truth behind the tales.

For more information, call 824-8437 or visit the Web site at: www.ghosttrackhayride.com.

The Alamo City Sports Complex is located at 3030 Shane Road, not far from Brooks.



ACTIONLINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

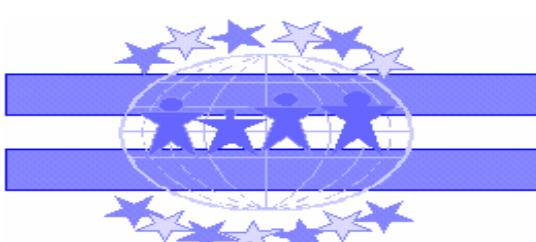
If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS afterduty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900
Housing Office.....	533-5905
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BXMarket.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366

program.



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Heartlink spouse orientation

Oct. 27, 8 a.m. - noon., Bldg. 537—

This program is designed for spouses of military members married less than five years but all military spouses are welcome. Learn about the Air Force and where you fit in, protocol, customs, rank structure, military benefits and support agencies and tools for communicating within the Air Force. A spouse's handbook and lunch are provided. Childcare may be available. Contact Tech. Sgt. Austin Peoples at 536-2444 for additional information.

College financial planning

Oct. 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

The section 529 college financial plan provides a qualified tuition program that offers special benefits for funding a child's college education. Come to class and learn the details of the two types of plans under the

Separation and retirement

Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered include pre-separation, veterans benefits, survivors benefit plans, Tricare and financial planning. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Retirement planning

Nov. 5, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Everyone has retirement dreams. For some, retirement is a time to travel the world, while others simply want to take up a new hobby. Whatever your retirement dreams are, you'll need a solid financial foundation to help you get where you want to go. How much will it cost to secure your retirement dreams? Attend this class and find out how to make your dreams come true.

Transition seminar

Nov. 18-20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Making the transition from the military to civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve those separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills, including appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and much more. Members should plan to attend at least 180 days prior to retirement or separation.

To register for a class or for more information on any of the classes offered at Brooks, call the Family Support Center at 536-2444 or Toll Free at 877-747-5938.



Happy Halloween

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

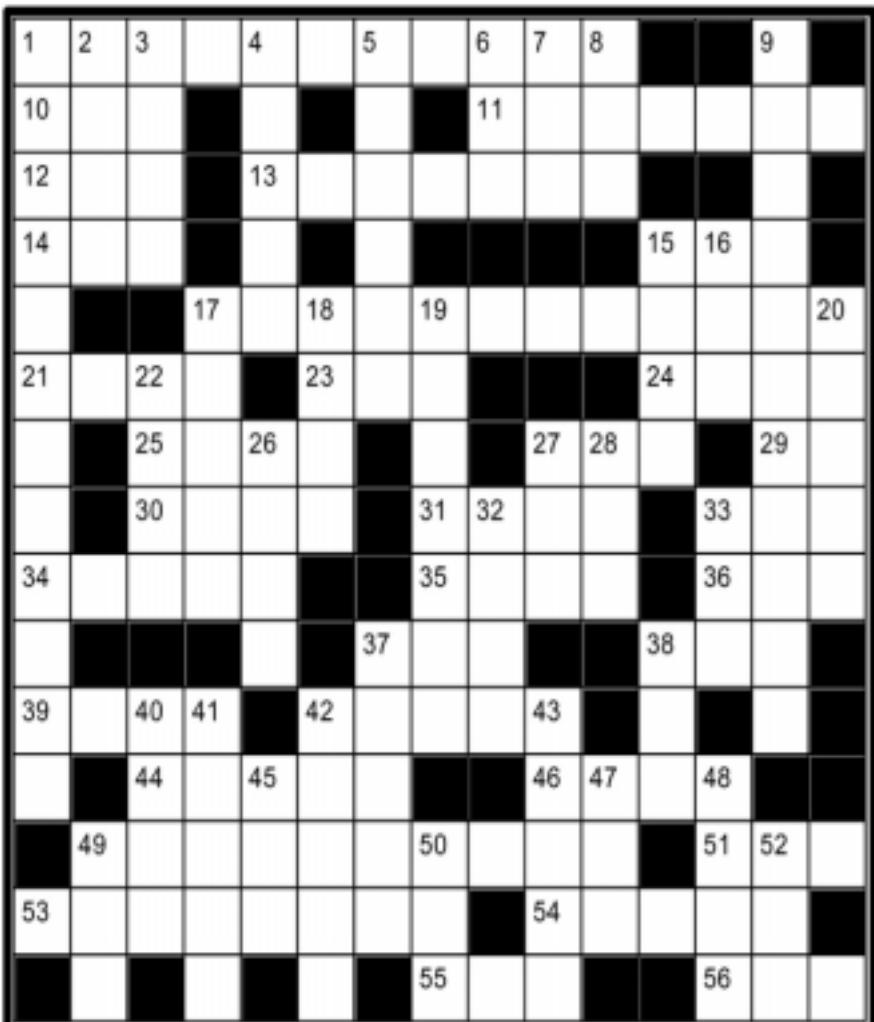
ACROSS

1. Start of title of 1917 Washington Irving Halloween story
10. Tombstone letters
11. Male witch on Halloween
12. Supreme Allied commander in WWII informally
13. Former Simpson trial lawyer
14. Average grade
15. Wane
17. End of 1 ACROSS
21. Pig noise
23. Type of AF unit not associated with a MAJCOM
24. California town
25. Eerie emanation on Halloween
27. School org.
29. Tail marking for a/c assigned to 103rd FW
30. Thin
31. Appeal
33. Part of a circle
34. Kingdom
35. Football great Andy ____
36. Military pay entitlement (abbrev.)
37. Needle
38. Gallop
39. Computer maker
42. Items received from 1 DOWN
44. Item received during 1 DOWN
46. Major or Minor
49. Item for 20 DOWN
51. Item used to collect 1 DOWN items
53. Items for 1 DOWN
54. Gathering for 20 DOWN
55. Oklahoma city
56. Explosive

DOWN

1. Halloween night activity

2. Walk
3. Fencing tool
4. Ford faux pas
5. Schwarzenegger movie
6. Driving crime
7. Paddle
8. To's partner
9. Title character of 1 ACROSS
15. Singer Fitzgerald
16. Type of sucker received during 1 DOWN; ___-pop
17. Item found in Halloween haunted house
18. Type of cheese
19. A Jack-o-Lantern is carved from it
20. Halloween hag
22. Fed. space agency
26. Edges
27. Zip
28. Light touch
32. Bring an aircraft to rest?
33. Middle East country ___ Dhabi
37. Faded fad
38. Military recon info system (abbrev.)
40. Mistakes
41. 1977 TV miniseries on Haley novel
42. Military communication officer (acronym)
43. Joshua tree genus
45. Hulk's Ferrigno
47. 1929 picture studio
48. Help
49. Ghost's cry
50. Fed. agency concerned with transportation
52. Actress Penelope ___ Miller



Solutions, Page 18





Airmen move from tents to huts

By Staff Sgt. Russell Wicke

455th Expeditionary Operations Group Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFPN) — Airmen here are now in the process of transitioning from living in temper tents to wooden structures called B-huts.

"These semi-permanent timber structures are replacing our tents which have exceeded their life expectancy in this harsh environment," said Capt. Trey Sledge, 455th Expeditionary Support Squadron civil engineer flight commander. He is deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

According to Sledge, the huts are an improvement on living standards, and erecting them is cheaper than replacing the tents.

"These huts are designed to last three to four years," Sledge said. "After that, military operations are expected to move to ... more permanent structures."

The introduction of B-huts to the Air Force Village here offers significant improvement in multiple areas.

The eight-section temper tents being replaced held 16 to 24 airmen, according to Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth McQuiston, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing command chief master sergeant, who is also deployed from Spangdahlem. The new B-huts will only hold eight occupants, allowing larger personal-living space. But because space is limited in Air Force Village, Sledge said some airmen are being double-bunked temporarily to empty tents to make room for hut construction.

Not only will living space be larger, but conditions will also be more comfortable, he said.

"These huts will have hard walls

that feature insulation," McQuiston said. "They will be cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter."

The timber walls will also offer more than climate control.

"The biggest advantage of these huts versus tents is the wind factor," Sledge said. "When the wind starts blowing hard, the tents fly and walls are whipped around, creating a lot of noise and vibration."

High winds salted with dust occur nearly every day here.

"But we'll also be able to put up shelves and hang pictures to personalize the space," he said.

"This will be a huge morale boost once we get everyone in huts," said Lt. Col. John Doherty, 455th Expeditionary Services Squadron commander who is deployed from the Pentagon. "Each person is expected to have (his or her) own enclosed section by the end of December."

The road Bagram Air Base is taking to build these huts also offers jobs to the local community.

"The base is contracting the job out to the locals to provide more employment (locally)," McQuiston said.

Not only do the huts improve the lives of deployed airmen, but also the economy here.

"The American way of business is not to conquer countries," Doherty said, "but to come in and achieve our national objectives, which in this case (are) getting rid of terrorists, and then (leaving) the country in better condition than we found it. Contracting out these jobs is not only a way to improve the economy, but it also sows the seeds of democracy."

Airmen are witnessing a different type of construction. Although electricity is available on base, the Afghan



Courtesy photo

Fazell uses a hand saw to cut a plank inside a B-hut at Air Force Village at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Afghan carpenters construct these huts using only hand tools. Even sheets of plywood are cut by hand. The huts will replace the temper tents as living quarters.

carpenters erect all the timber structures using only hand tools.

"That's their method of construction," Sledge said. "It's the way they're used to doing it because there's not electricity available outside the base."

But allowing locals access to the base can be a dangerous situation if it is not handled with tight security. Most al-Qaida and Taliban terrorists blend right in with the local people. The Afghan carpenters must go through five security checkpoints before they can even get through the gate, according to Staff Sgt. Kristin Bunn, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group noncommissioned officer in charge of force protection and security program. Even items such as small mirrors are forbidden to prevent signaling from on base.

Once on base, security does not lighten up. These contracted carpenters must be escorted by airmen as

long as they are working on the installation.

"Literally every day we have to go to the gate and escort them from the security checkpoints," said Bunn who is deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. "It is a requirement to have at least one guard for every 10 workers."

Before construction even started, the airmen were working with soldiers on a new design for these B-huts, said Master Sgt. Robert Miller, 455th ESS engineering superintendent deployed from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

"We wanted upgraded huts from what the Army was using," Miller said.

The new design features larger living quarters with higher walls and screened windows, McQuiston said.

"Now, our new design for B-huts has been adopted by the Army and the rest of the coalition," Miller said. "It's been a long process so far, but it will be worth the wait."



BROOKS

SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Bonanza Bingo has returned to the Brooks Club and Sidney's. Purchase a card and win from \$2 to \$1,000. There are 12 ways to win money: Diagonal-\$2; horizontal-\$2; four corners-\$2; postage stamp-\$2; small diamond-\$5; vertical-\$10; block of nine-\$25; large diamond-\$100; crazy letter T-\$100; crazy letter L-\$100; small picture frame — \$100; and a coverall — \$1,000.

Family Night Buffets are every Tuesday at the Brooks Club. Adults are \$4 and children, 6-10 years, are \$2. Children under 5 years eat free. A variety of buffets served, including barbecue, Western barbecue, Oriental, Mexican, Italian, and fried chicken—so watch for your favorite foods.

Let the Brooks Club cater your next special function. We do promotion par-

ties, retirements, weddings, birthdays and family get-togethers. Stop by the club and let us help you plan your next event.

'Travel the World on Us' Club membership drive

There is still time to join the Brooks Consolidated Club System and participate in "Travel the World on Us." The membership campaign runs through Oct. 31 and is open to all eligible non-members, including active duty, retirees, reservists and civilians. The campaign hopes to educate eligible nonmembers about various activities clubs offer, inform the Air Force community about benefits of the club membership card and introduce club services to eligible Air Force non-members.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

Rent an indoor storage unit and clear the clutter from your home, garage or office. Units are located on the flightline across from Outdoor Recreation. A 6' x 12' unit rents for \$35 and a 12' x 12' unit rents for \$60 per month.

Premiere Designs

Bldg. 705, 536-2120

Premiere Designs offers laser engraving, framing packages, business cards, presentation gifts, shadow boxes, flag boxes and many consignment items. Imagination is the key to a creative one-of-a-kind present. Add a special touch to photos you're having framed by letting us engrave a name or graphic on the glass. Let us show what a difference this can make to your family photos, that big catch that no one believed, your grandchild or any other special picture.

Stop by the library and check out the winners of this year's Ghost Story Contest. Runner-up entries from each category — 6-8 years; 9-12 years; 13-18 years; and adults will be displayed in the Base Library through Nov. 1. Each category winner was printed on parchment paper and framed.

"Check out" the ghosts in Bldg. 705 while you're there. There's a number of books on the subject.

2003 Air Force family and teen talent contest

The family that gets up on stage together stays together. Brooks Youth Center hosts the 6th Annual Air Force Worldwide Family and Teen Talent Contest at the Brooks Club Nov. 14. Moms, dads, brothers and sisters are invited to perform together in the family-oriented event starting at 6 pm.

This program reinforces creative expression and helps youth gain a better appreciation of the performing arts. Family member acts may enter any of 15 categories for which they qualify.

Children, ages 3-18 years, or older if still in high school, or graduated in 2003, are eligible to enter. Family member acts may enter any number of categories for which they qualify.

The 15 categories are: parent and youth team, which must consist of one parent and one youth; husband and wife team, must consist of one eligible member and one spouse; children, ages 3-5 solo or group act; children ages 6-8 solo or group act; preteen, ages 9-12, solo or individual act; preteen, ages 9-12, group act; teen, ages 13-15, solo/individual vocal act; teen, ages 13-15, solo/individual instrumental act; teen, ages 13-15, solo/individual performance or specialty act; teen, ages 13-15, group act; teen, ages 16-18, solo/individual vocal act; teen, ages 16-18, solo/individual in-

strumental act; teen, ages 16-18, solo/individual performance act; teen, ages 16-18, group family act, which must consist of a husband and wife, both active duty members, with a minimum of one child, or a single parent with at least two children who are immediate family.

Videotapes of base winners will be submitted for an Air Force-level contest, where competitors will vie for U.S. Savings Bonds.

Contact Ron Hayes or Felitia McLaurin at 536-2515 for registration details and additional information.

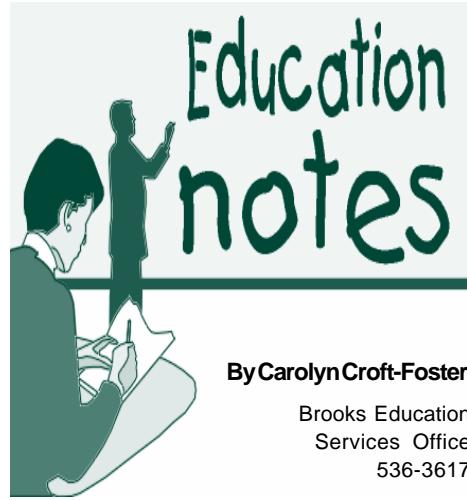
Child Development Center

Bldg. 502, 536-2736

The Brooks Child Development Center recently received its certificate of renewal from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This was the fourth renewal in a row and includes all areas of the CDC.

Certification by NAEYC requires hard work and dedication. Program requirements are strict and high standards must be met and maintained to sustain the accreditation status. This year, the certificate was issued for an additional two years, based on the Centers' outstanding record. Accredited centers have highly qualified professional teachers who pick up on children's needs, help build confidence and nurture them to become confident adults with healthy esteem.

The center is undergoing another facelift to improve the facility for the children, teachers and parents. Improvements include rooms 1, 2 and 3, the toddler patio and the infant-toddler rooms. Renovations are not expected to disrupt business or cause closure. The work is scheduled to be done at night and on weekends. Contact the Center staff at 536-2736 for additional information.



By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617**CLEP tests retire**

The College Board is retiring paper-based CLEP tests. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. In January the following exams will be recalled: Social Sciences and History, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Psychology and Principles of Management. All remaining exams retire March 31, 2004. Computer-based CLEP exams are available at national test centers but service members cannot currently request reimbursement. The Brooks Education Services Office offers CLEP testing Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 for additional information or to reserve a seat.

DANTES/DSST fees

The fee for DANTES transcripts for military members increased to \$20 at the beginning of October. The

cost of DSST exams for civilians also increased to \$45. Contact the Education Center for details.

St. Mary's University

The representative from St. Mary's University visits Brooks Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. St. Mary's has on-line courses for undergraduate and graduate degrees. Call 536-3617 for an appointment.

Upper Iowa University

UIU now offers classes at Brooks. The university allows students to complete degrees through its Military Campus Resident Centers, online, or through external degree programs. The programs offered at Brooks include bachelor of science degrees in Business Administration, Public Administration, Technology and Information Management, Human Resource Management, Human Services and Management. Pamphlets are available in the Education Office or visit the Upper Iowa Web site at: www.uiu.edu. UIU has a Partnership Advantage agreement with Palo Alto College.

Embry-Riddle programs

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers master of Aeronautical Science, bachelor of Professional Aeronautics and bachelor of Technical Management programs at Randolph Air Force Base. The representative provides academic counseling at Brooks Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Call 659-0801 if interested.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a bachelor of applied arts and sci-

ences degree, which provides excellent opportunities for individuals to capitalize on prior experience. Students pursuing this degree can transfer credits previously earned, individualize degree plans with emphasis in an occupational field of choice and earn credit for work and life experience and business, industry and military training. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. Call 536-3618 for more information.

Virtual Education Center

The Air Force Virtual Education Center is online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and the Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can also order CCAF transcripts from the site. The site also features practice tests for CLEP exams. To access the AFVEC go to: <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> and establish an account. Call the Education Center at 536-3617 for details.

Discover Program on-line

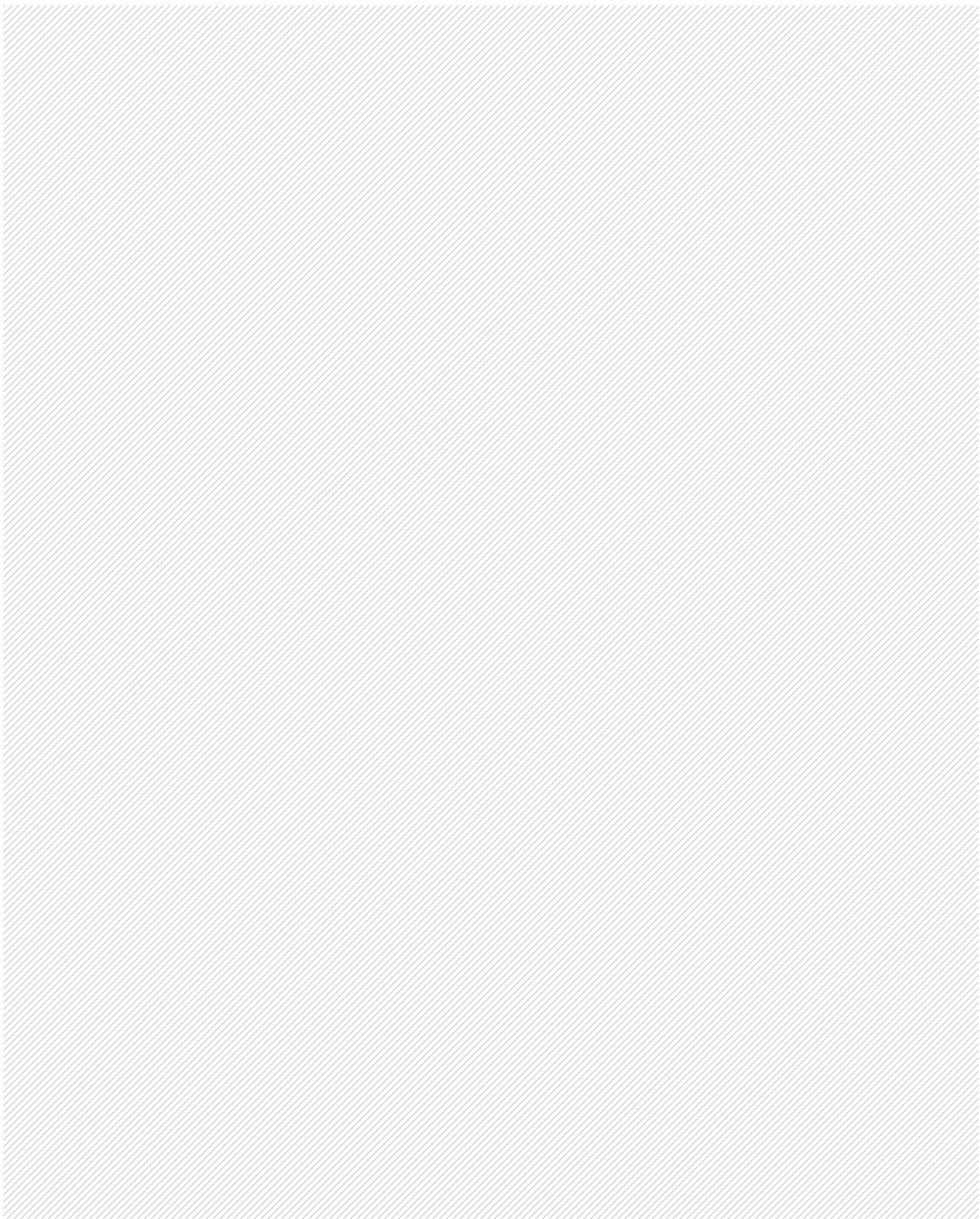
The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians, and family members. Schedule an appointment to get started.

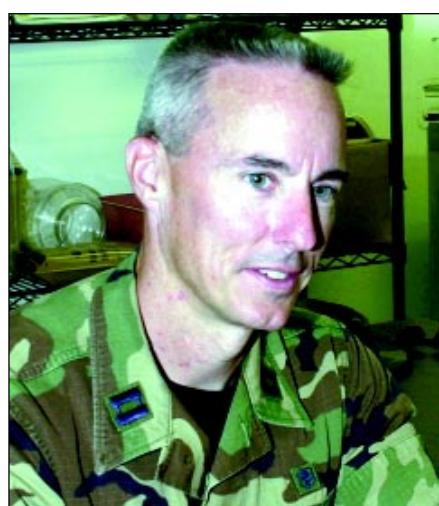
National Graduate School

The National Graduate School offers a program to finish a bachelor's degree in one year and then complete a master's degree in one additional year. The representative, visits Brooks Wednesdays from 9 to 11a.m. Call 536-3617 or visit the Web site at: www.NGS.edu.



DISCOVERY **13**
Oct. 24, 2003





Barkley

Q&A

FULL NAME:
William "Britt" Barkley, Captain

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Assistant course director for Expeditionary Medical Support, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

WHAT IS MY JOB?
My coworkers ask me that! I'm the operations officer for the EMEDS program. I handle the budget, registration, in-processing, behind the scenes stuff. I also teach a few blocks at USAFSAM.

BIRTHDAY:
Dec. 15, 1961

HOMETOWN:
Bath, SC (about half the size of Brooks)

FAMILY STATUS:
Single, divorced with a 4-year-old daughter

NICKNAME:
I don't usually talk to myself (in public anyway) but my call-sign is "Fat Boy".

MOTTO:
"Snakes-BAD!"
If you've ever worked with me or sat through my safety briefs at EMEDS, this is self-explanatory."

INSPIRATIONS:
Bruce Lee

HOBBIES:
Martial Arts, photography, movie memorabilia

PET PEEVE:
Dirty cars. Ask anyone who knows me, I can be obsessive about washing my cars.

I JOINED THE MILITARY:
Like Cruiser said in the movie "STRIPES" "I figured I had better sign up before I got drafted!" Ok, I joined to finish college. I had a scholarship but it did not go past the second year. I couldn't afford tuition on my own. I had friends who joined and they were driving a fairly new car, going to school, and seemed happy. I joined up for one "hitch" over 21 years ago. Go figure...

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
Professionally-I would like to be a Major; competent and confident in my job. Personally—debt free other than my house, which I will be paying on when I'm 150 years old!

ULTIMATE GOAL:
First and foremost, be a good father. And beat my daughter at those matching card games!

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
Buy every episode of "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?" or the entire Cartoon Network. Seriously, since it would negate my 5-year goal, I'd invest, max out the Texas Tomorrow Fund for my daughter's education, splurge on family and buy a movie theatre for dad.

FAVORITE MUSIC:
My father was a musician with many influences so I'm very eclectic. My last two concerts were Kenny Chesney and KISS/Aerosmith. I may listen to the Ohio Players and Wild Cherry in my office, then drive to EMEDS with Matchbox 20 and Sugar Ray.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
is personally, becoming a father. Professionally, getting a commission at age 37.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
is time spent with my daughter, Haley. Nothing beats coloring, Play Doh, memory games, riding bikes, going to Seaworld...

Feature



Courtesy photo

The other half—Mr. Brooks City-Base

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Capt. Britt Barkley may not look it, but he has a little Latin expression in him. *Carpe Diem* — seize the day.

Barkley doesn't believe in letting opportunity pass by and he doesn't like to sit idle as life forges ahead.

"I try to make the most of the opportunities that are given to me," Barkley said. "Sometimes you don't get what you don't ask for."

When Barkley turned 37, he decided to ask for his commission, despite pessimists telling him he was too old. For a short period in 2000, the Air Force extended the age for attending Officer Training School from 35 to 40 and Barkley knew he had to take advantage of the offer.

"There was a small window of opportunity and I jumped right through it," he said.

When Barkley had the chance to become an ambassador, he barreled right through the door. The committee at Wilford Hall Medical Center selected him as their representative to the ambassador panel at Lackland Air Force Base, but Barkley lost that board to other nominees. At Brooks, he took the opportunity to nominate himself for ambassador and nailed the selection interview, earning a position as a Brooks ambassador to Fiesta.

"It was fantastic," Barkley said. "I can't believe they paid me to do that."

The crowds and jovial atmosphere of Fiesta fit Barkley, who readily admits he loves to perform to an audience, to a tee.

"We were like rock stars for 10 days," he said. "They were always happy to see us."

During his reign, Barkley attended parties and receptions and participated in various events around San Antonio.

"I got to do some things I wouldn't normally get to do," he said.

His favorite activities, however, were the parades, which allowed him

to claim all the attention he wanted.

"The Flambeau parade, it was pandemonium," Barkley said. "I was hammering it up the entire time."

The other military ambassadors encouraged the captain in his exploits, as the rambunctious group formed a close bond quickly.

"By the first or second day of Fiesta we were all just having the time of our lives," he said. "We didn't want to stop hanging out."

A limited number of Fiesta medals can't be purchased, they must be obtained from the source. Those medals include King Antonio, El Rey Feo and the military medals. For some, capturing one of those prizes becomes a mission.

"During Fiesta, the medal hunt can get pretty crazy," Barkley said. "We were mobbed everywhere we went."

Barkley didn't treat his role as a Brooks and Air Force representative as a game, however. With the world events earlier this year, the ground war in Iraq began the same week as Fiesta, the military ambassadors drew more attention than during previous Fiestas.

"We were on TV practically every day," Barkley said. "The eyes are always on you."

He later added: "You need to be really pro-military."

The role of the Brooks ambassadors doesn't end at Fiesta. Throughout the year they appear at ribbon cuttings and parades and they also participate in social outreach activities. On Valentine's Day, Barkley, along with other members of the Brooks community, visited the Audie Murphy Veteran's Hospital to chat with the patients. During his stay, he met a World War II vet who stormed Utah Beach on D-Day and a Pearl Harbor survivor.

The normally vibrant Barkley became more subdued as he spoke about his experiences in the hospital. He sat subdued, focusing on conveying the message that these

people he talked with had left an impression on him.

"It was a very rewarding experience," he said, with a tone of respect and appreciation.

Barkley joined the military as a means of paying for college, but he reenlisted to take advantage of an assignment in Germany. Before enlisting, he majored in art and a tour in Europe afforded him the opportunity to see the architecture and artwork he'd studied in school.

"I tried to get to as many places as I could," he said about his stay on the continent.

Eventually during his military service he found a position in medical readiness.

"I found my niche," Barkley said. "I found where I was supposed to be. I never wanted to get out of it."

Teaching, as he did at Wilford Hall and does at Brooks, allows him to remain in the field and gives him an audience. Barkley has no qualms about speaking in front of an audience, an advantage he attributes to his performances and years instructing in martial arts.

"It's been a defining factor in my life," he said of karate and Tae Kwon Do. "It's helped me be more outgoing, more outspoken...it just helps you come out of your shell."

Those qualities all helped him in his role as an ambassador as he worked 12-16 hour days meeting people, shaking hands and attending events.

"I liked being a representative for the Air Force," Barkley said. "I would be the Brooks ambassador (again)...I was honored to do it."

While he won't be an ambassador next year, Barkley will seize the chances he has to further the Air Force and his students. He'll also remember not to take any days for granted and take advantage of all the opportunities life has to offer.



433rd Troop Carrier Group is living history

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

The combat of World War II ended more than 50 years ago, but for the veterans of that conflict, the pains and friendships remain strong.

Each year members of the 433rd Troop Carrier Group, now the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, gather to enjoy each other's company and swap stories about the old days.

This year, the vets met in San Antonio. Despite rain during their five-day visit, the group remained upbeat and cheerful, happy to spend time indoors talking and laughing. Each reunion draws a crowd, though the numbers dwindled through the years. The 433rd has the advantage of size of other groups trying to organize a get-together. Typically, an Air Force group has four squadrons, but by the end of World War II, the 433rd had six.

"Which made it the largest troop carrying group in the world," said former Staff Sgt. Paul Seaman, the group historian, a fitting role for the former aerial photographer.

About 2,000 troops made up the 433rd in its heyday and while they shared the same experiences, many of the men at the reunion didn't meet during the war.

"We didn't know each other until we started these reunions," Seaman said.

The men traveled among several bases in the U.S. for training and practice missions, before moving to a base near San Francisco. From there, they left for an overseas assignment.

"You couldn't call home, you couldn't do anything," said former Staff Sgt. Bill Schade. "I still didn't know where we were going."

They were going to Australia and from there to New Guinea. Eventually, they would move troops, equipment, supplies, food and medicine farther into the Pacific theater, finally arriving on Okinawa.

The trans-Pacific journey took longer in those days. Pilots and aircrew island-hopped to their destination, making their first stop in Hawaii.

Schade, a radio operator, had trouble right from the start. His plane had a fuel leak and they returned to the mainland for repairs, only to set out again later without the security of a squadron. His navigator didn't inspire confidence either. The boy was only 17 years old.

"I thought 'we'll never get to the right place at the right time,'" Schade said.

When the island did appear, someone called out to the others to look at Diamondhead, a mountain and famous landmark on Oahu.

"I thought: 'What the hell is Diamondhead?'" Schade said.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Members of the 433rd Troop Carrier Group, the largest group in the world by the end of World War II and now the 433rd Airlift Wing, at Lackland Air Force Base, gather each year for a reunion. This year, with the reunion in San Antonio, the group added historic Hangar 9 to its list of stops on the trip down memory lane.

Schade and his aircrew counter parts made the journey down under in C-47s, a bonus for pilots who could put the machine on autopilot.

"It kinda made me steam because they were taking naps," Schade said. "I was really tired."

Not everyone got to fly. Large numbers of the group crossed the Pacific by boat.

"(The SS America) was the largest transport in the U.S. service," Seaman said. "There were 10,000 of us aboard."

The ships didn't take a direct route, either, as the threat from enemy submarines stayed fresh in the minds of the troops on board.

"You'd alternate and zigzag segments keeping Japanese subs from getting a fix," said former Capt. Jim Mize.

The men have a plethora of stories and anecdotes to share about their experiences and the idiosyncrasies of other troops. One of the main functions of the 433rd was dropping off paratroopers, including those from Australia.

One time Schade's crew dropped two paratroopers off alone on an enemy hill. Instead of setting up defense and weapons, the men began boiling water.

"They didn't miss very many tea times," Seaman chimed in with a laugh.

The Americans came to have great respect and admiration for the Australian and New Guinea troops, despite their fondness for afternoon refreshments.

"They were great soldiers," Mize said.

For the men assigned to the troop carrier groups, the greatest danger was weather. Storms and wind could send a plane crashing, but no plane from the 433rd Troop Carrier Group was ever shot down. The troops they dropped off didn't always share the same fate.

"There's not enough a man can say about our (infantrymen)," Seaman said.

While those statements bring sobriety and harsh reality to the situation, the troops often found humor even in dire scenarios.

Schade's father sent him a cam-

"When you're dead, your history's gone."

Staff Sgt. Paul Seaman
Historian,
433rd Troop Carrier Group

"They gave their today for our tomorrows," he said.

Before the reunion, Seaman mailed out a questionnaire asking for humorous, touching and factual memories from World War II. Many of the men were reluctant to answer, especially regarding their own heroism or decorations, but Seaman wants the information for historical, not egotistical, purposes.

"When you're dead, your history's gone," he said.

In an effort to maintain some visual history, Barbara Schade, Bill's wife, painted pictures of the C-47 and C-46 aircraft. The paintings were so popular, she sold them in a limited edition collection and many now hang in museums and other locations, like the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Bill asked his wife to create the artwork to have in his home and he filled her in on the details so she could develop the backgrounds.

"It's the best print of a C-47, C-46," Mize said, who donated his copies to a museum near his home.

During their stay in San Antonio, the 433rd Troop Carrier Group toured Hangar 9 at Brooks, another place alive with history.

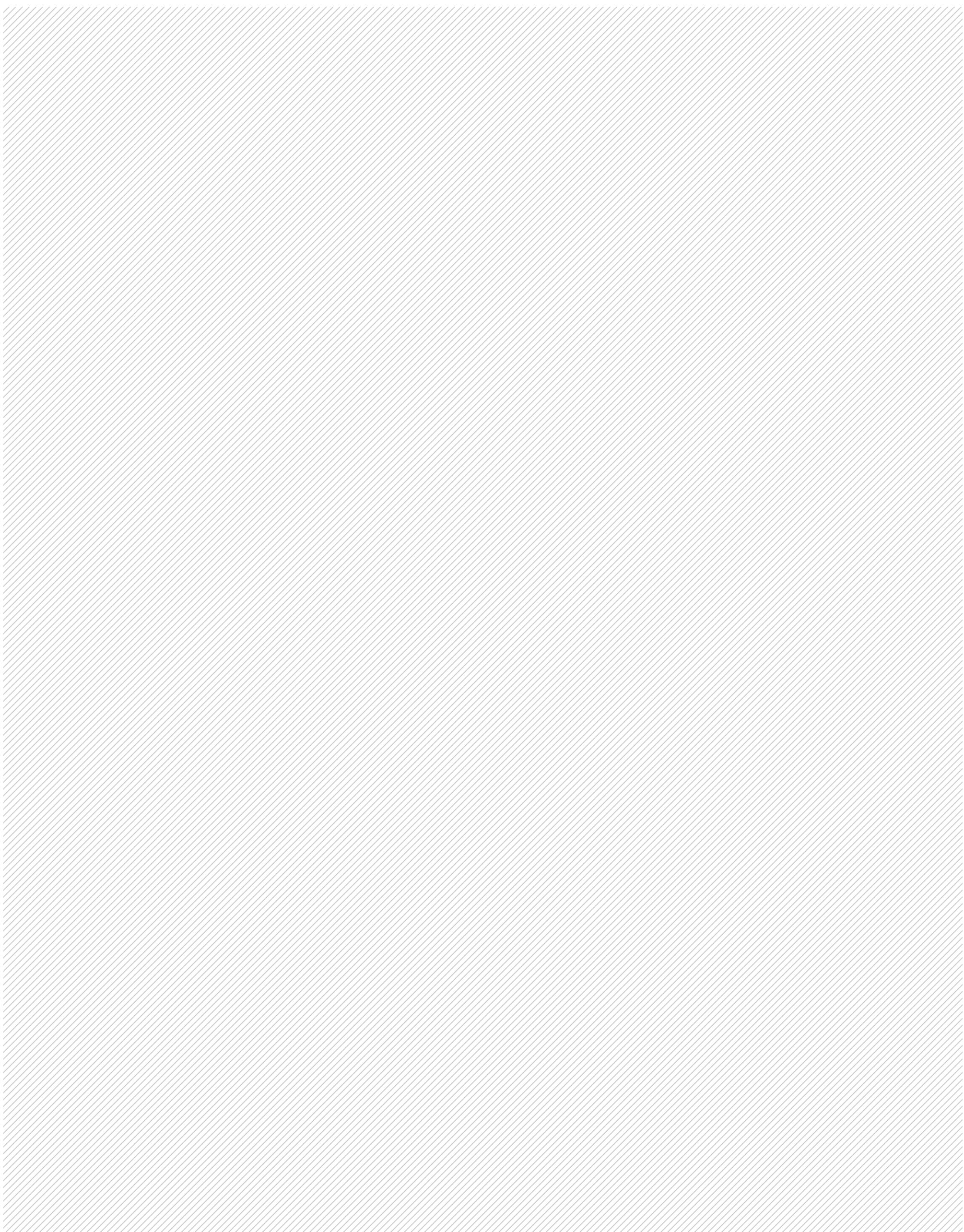
Seaman, and historians like him, hope the pain and happiness experienced through war will motivate and inspire new generations to understand and appreciate the past, while molding a stronger future.

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Staff Sgt. Chris Canarina, Brooks historian, shares the history of Hangar 9 with members of the 433rd Troop Carrier Group recently. The 433rd Troop Carrier Group, now the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, held their reunion in San Antonio this year. Each year, the group gathers to swap stories and share memories. A book of stories, maps and photos commemorate the men of the 433rd, even those who didn't come home. The reunions provide an opportunity for the group historian to gather even more historical data.







NEWS briefs

"MyPay" Web site

The Air Force Personnel Center has released a warning about a fraudulent myPay Web site. The site, www.mypay.com, is set up to resemble the official site, and contains familiar terms, such as DFAS and LES. By accessing the site and logging in, members inadvertently provide personal information, including social security numbers. Use caution when accessing leave and earning statements. Use only the official Web site at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Retiree council vacancy

The Texas Area Air Force retiree council is seeking retirees interested in serving a tour on the council. Council members' responsibilities include annual visits to each base in their geographic area, as well as those outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-3106, Retiree Activities Program. Nominations must be received by Nov. 7. Contact Bill Torrey at 565-4663 or by email at: [william.torrey@randolph.af.mil](mailto:wiliam.torrey@randolph.af.mil) for more information.

Ambassador applications

Public Affairs is accepting applications for 2004 Brooks ambassadors through Nov. 7. Military members and DoD civilian employee are eligible to represent the base through

this Wing Commander's Community Outreach Program. Ambassadors support requests for speaking opportunities, career days, parades, and science fairs. Applicants who are interested will compete for the highly coveted title of Brooks Fiesta Ambassador. Training is provided. To pick up an official application package or to find out more information, call Ed Shannon at 536-5140.

Motorcycle Riders' Club

The Brooks City-Base Motorcycle Riders' Club is looking for interested motorcycle enthusiasts to join. Contact Staff Sgt. Caeser Velez at 536-8490 for more information or by email at: ceaser.velez@brooks.af.mil.

Altitude subjects

Altitude subjects are needed to help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and

50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information. The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years and able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam. Volunteers will participate in several studies to help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. Contact Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258 for details.

Tuskegee meeting

The Tuskegee Airmen San Antonio Chapter's monthly meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Nov. 6, at the Randolph Air Force Base Enlisted club. Everyone is welcome. Contact Douglas Washington at 494-0026 for additional information.

Toastmasters

You only have one opportunity to make a first impression, take the initiative.

Hangar 9 Toastmasters meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 in Bldg. 559, classroom 3. Toastmasters provides a mutually supportive

and positive learning environment to develop communication and leadership skills, which foster confidence and personal growth.

Toastmasters is open to all Brooks personnel. Contact 2nd Lt. Laura Chavez at 536-2086 for more information.

Sleep subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers for a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Katy Ramsey at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the Web site at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."

Halloween solutions

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Brooks bowler no longer travels in the 'fast lanes'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

He once traveled in bowling's "fast lanes" as one of America's top amateurs. While Rob Collins has left his mark on the sport with state records that are enshrined in the American Bowling Congress Hall of Fame, he currently prefers an Air Force civil service career over that of a professional bowler.

A member of the Professional Bowlers Association, Collins nevertheless enjoys the challenges of competing against San Antonio's top amateur bowlers.

"The best bowlers in the city compete on Wednesday nights at Astro Bowl. There's plenty of action there for what I need. You've got to chase your passion," says the Brooks fitness center specialist.

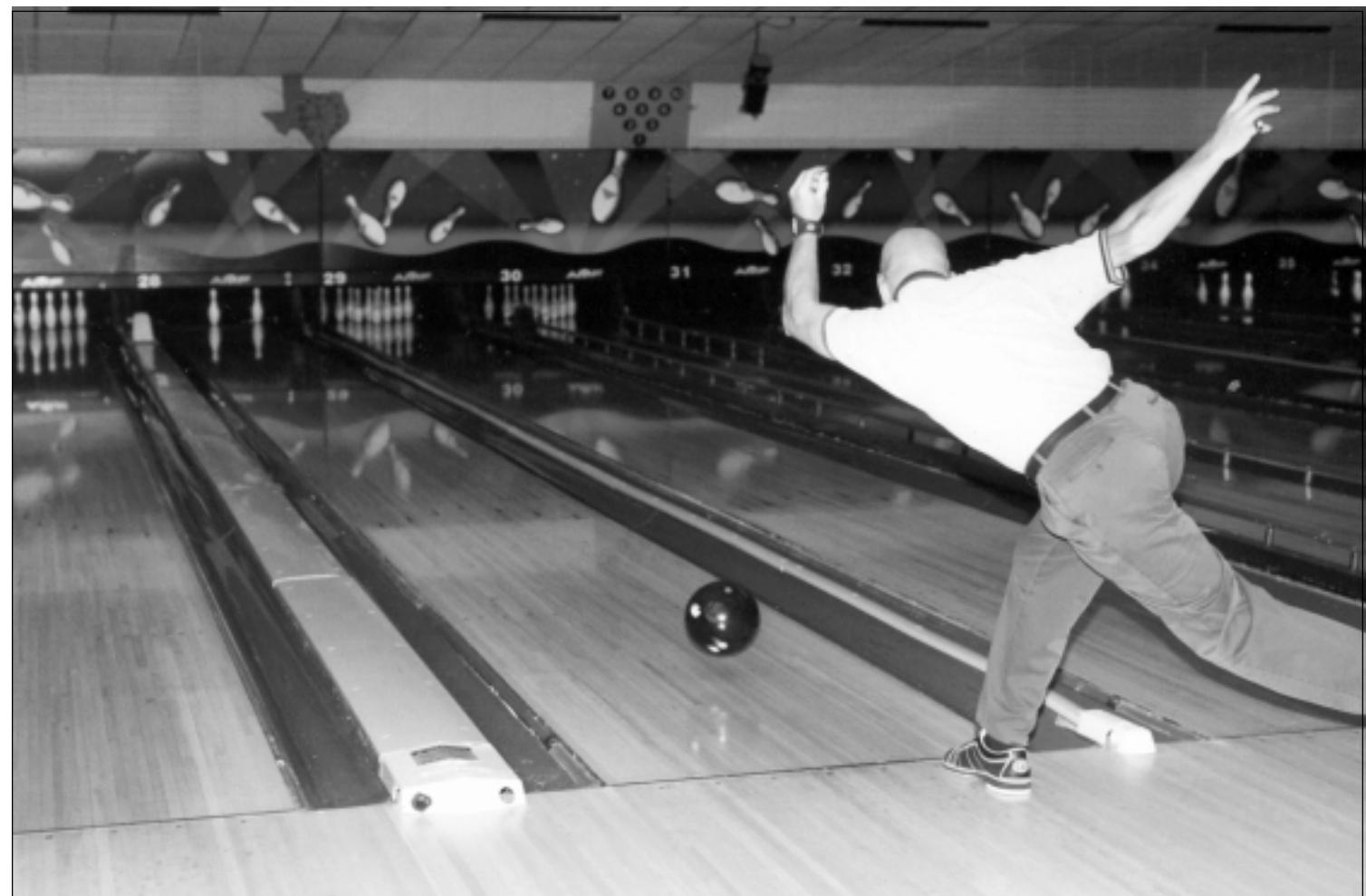
Carrying a 225 average for the past four years, Collins is never satisfied with his game as he strives to improve in a sport that he has played since age four.

"What I value most is the experience I gain. I learn more from my failures," he says, explaining that the game requires both skill and mental toughness.

Born at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., Aug. 23, 1967, Collins grew up in bowling alleys. His parents were avid bowlers who'd frequently bowl on base. He hurled his first ball off a child's bowling ramp in Okinawa, Japan. At age five he was spending Saturday mornings in a Young American Bowling Alliance league.

"Even at that age I wanted to knock all the pins down to have the highest score," admits the highly competitive Collins.

He soon learned the intricacies of the sport, from bowling lingo to making adjustments to lanes'



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Rob Collins demonstrates his bowling style that has earned him a place in the Pro Bowler's Hall of Fame.

varying oil patterns. Collins also absorbed techniques gleaned from watching on TV bowling's greatest pros, including Hall of Famers Earl Anthony and Dick Weber. Later in his career, Collins competed against some of these great pros.

Yet his mastery of the sport seemed light years away when he started to get serious about bowling at age 10.

"I was immature and out of control (then)," he admits, explaining that he never accepted responsibility for his failures. Despite his shortcomings, Collins progressed. By age 15, he was carrying a 200 average in a men's league.

"I wanted to bowl for money instead of trophies," said Collins, noting that he had just raw talent and nothing else.

"I knew nothing about equipment and had no coaches." His breakthrough year came in 1983 in the Chicago suburb of Ottawa.

"I was bowling scratch for a team called The Golden Coins," he says, noting that he tossed a 713 series, high for the team which finished first in the league.

By then, he was learning the science of bowling to help him gain an edge on the competition.

"Friction, not speed, creates power to explode the ball off the pins," he said.

He learned about equipment techniques used to compensate for oil buildup on lanes that cause balls "to track."

"I use to drill my own (customized) balls," he said, explaining that the legal alterations he made using balance weights allowed him to control ball movement.

Equipment preparation is a key to his game, for Collins learned early that even pins differ in weight.

"Pins that are older and chipped are lighter. A bowler is (also) at the mercy of alley mechanics, for even the depth of gutters vary," he said.

Collins subscribes to baseball legend Yogi Berra's philosophy, which also applies to bowling: "Fifty percent of the game is physical, but 90 percent is mental." Playing in tournaments is mentally brutal, Collins says, because of the number of games played under extreme pressure.

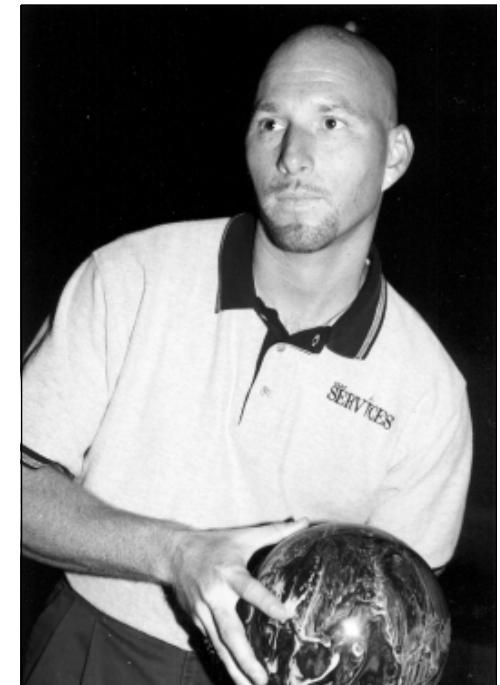
"Typically, bowlers don't have to be in great physical shape. In bowling, mental (toughness) will (usually) overcome physical inadequacies," he says, owner of 20 perfect 300 games.

Collins launched a successful amateur career shortly after enlisting in the Air Force in 1986.

His bowling prowess was first noticed at Mather Air Force Base when he defeated an Air Force bowling legend.

By 1987 he was making a name for himself by winning tournaments, highlighted by him tossing an incredible 801 series at Travis AFB.

He made the Air Force bowling team in 1988 and finished sixth at the All-Armed Forces tournament in



Fitness Center Specialist Rob Collins has earned the reputation of being one of the top bowlers in his age category. He launched a successful amateur career in 1986, shortly after he enlisted in the Air Force.

1989.

Among his many accomplishments are a pair of state records. On July 24, 2000 at Patrick AFB, Fla., Collins set the Florida state record with an 878 series. Carrying a 238 average, Collins earned the record by tossing a perfect game in the first match, followed by 279 and 299 games. Four years earlier, he set the Arkansas state record for nine games with a combined 2,250 score, while also becoming state champion. He won his first major tournament in 1989 as the Seagrams Western Open champion.

Today, Collins enjoys "bowling against himself" to sharpen his skills in preparation for what may be a future career as a professional bowler.



Using his customized bowling ball as a backdrop, Brooks Fitness Center Specialist Rob Collins displays two of the championship rings he has earned during his career.

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68th IOS's 'flagging' play ensures intramural gridiron history not made

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Gridiron history of sorts was made last week, but not the kind that the defending intramural flag football champion can be proud of. With a chance to capture its second consecutive base crown as an undefeated squad, the 68th Information Operations Squadron team had to settle for a share of history with the combined 311th Human Systems Program/Contracting Office squad by prolonging the post-season tournament to a record third week.

In what would have been a base championship-clinching game Oct. 16, a shorthanded 68th IOS was on the short end of a lopsided 34-14 loss to a team they had mauled earlier in the tournament. Their loss forces a second base championship game this week.

Needing a win in the Oct. 16 "if" game to extend the post-season tournament, the YA/PK squad played like champions against an opponent whose flagging play was compounded by numerous penalties and turnovers.

The history-making tournament began Oct. 7 with just three teams, a consolation event to a suspended regular season that ended after the 68th had won the only game played. YA/PK advanced to the tourney's championship round by defeating the Air Force Institute for Operational Health 13-12 in a contest in which AFIOH's star player Rob Taylor suffered a game-ending injury after scoring the match's first touchdown.

"I'm not making any excuses, but we didn't execute," said Don Goudy, the 68th's backup coach, referring to reserve players, half of whom were play-

ing new positions for the first time. The loss of key starters to TDYs, including quarterback Blake Socin and wide receiver/safety Tim Heggendahl, hampered the 68th in a game against a team they had beaten 39-8 in the tourney's second round on Oct. 8.

"It's our first loss in two years," exclaimed Goudy, referring to the team's 2002 undefeated season and postseason, as well as its unblemished record this year that included two tournament wins prior to the Oct. 16 game.

The rout began on YA/PK's first possession of the game when backup quarterback Justin Darwin fired a TD pass to wide receiver Dave Mandel. The 68th roared back on its first possession with a sensational 65-yard TD run by wide receiver Will Jones that tied the game. However, YA/PK took the lead for good before the first half ended with a 40-yard TD pass to Mandel.

YA/PK broke the game open at the beginning of the second half with two quick scores, the first coming on quarterback Ken Chandler's 18-yard TD carry, and the second following an interception that set up Chris Saldana's touchdown on a Chandler pass. The game's first completed two-point conversion put YA/PK up 26-6.

The 68th reciprocated with their final tally, set up by Will Jones's 35-yard run on second down and long. With first and goal at the 10-yard line, Desmond Fahie scored. Quarterback Trent Switzer's two-point conversion made it 26-14.

Capping an 80-plus yard scoring drive, YA/PK iced the game when Chandler scored on a quarterback sneak from the one yard line. Chris Saldana's two-point conversion ended the game's scoring.

Brooks hosts inaugural hoop tourney Oct. 24-26

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks fitness center hosts an inaugural hoop tournament Oct. 24-26 that features varsity military teams from throughout Texas, including members of the Southwest Military Basketball League.

Called the "L.C. Artis Tipoff Classic," the double elimination tourney kicks off today with a 2 p.m. game between Brooks and Altus Air Force Base. The Oct. 24 schedule also includes a 4 p.m. contest between Lackland AFB and the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, a 6 p.m. game between Dyess AFB and Randolph AFB and an 8 p.m. match between two San Antonio city league civilian teams called Armando and Diablo's.

"We needed to host our own tournament. The other bases do it," said Brooks varsity head coach Hosea Talbert. He said the tourney provides the Brooks team valuable playing time as it launches its 2003-2004 regular season in preparation for the Air Force Materiel Command tournament.

"This is our first tourney of the season," said Talbert, who is in his third year as Brooks varsity head coach. This year's Brooks squad features a different mix of players from the team

Talbert led to a second place finish at the 2003 AFMC tourney. In fact, the squad is under development with the temporary loss of star power forward Rob Taylor who is injured.

"I took just six players to Altus," recalls Talbert of their opening season games played earlier this month at the Oklahoma Air Force base.

"They beat us at the buzzer with a three pointer 75-73. They also won the second game 87-80," Talbert said of Altus, a team which is in the Southwest Military Basketball League's Central Division.

Brooks is in the SMBL's Eastern Division with Dyess, Lackland and Randolph AFBs and Fort Sam Houston. Except for Fort Sam, their division rivals are participating in the Brooks Tipoff Classic.

The tourney here continues Saturday with seven games, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m. The championship round is scheduled for Sunday beginning with a 10 a.m. contest and ending with the title game that starts at 2:30 p.m. Besides team trophies, a tourney Most Valuable Player will be selected.

Admission is free, said Talbert, asking that the Brooks community come out to support their team.

Health and fitness notes

Commanders' Fitness Club

The Brooks Commanders' Fitness Club now meets at the Health and Fitness Center every Wednesday at 7 a.m. for a run/walk. Military and civilian personnel are encouraged to participate. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. Sign up at the Fitness Center.

It's never too late to get in shape, get healthy and feel better about yourself and your body.

Call 536-2188 for more information.